

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of all claims currently pending is shown below. The listing of claims below replaces all previously amended claims in this application. No new matter has been added.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn).
2. (Withdrawn).
3. (Withdrawn).
4. (Withdrawn).
5. (Withdrawn).
6. (Currently amended). A method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) receiving a call in an email server from the user of the portable electronic ~~device~~ device;
 - (b) determining if the user of the portable electronic device is registered as a user of the email server;
 - (c) obtaining a pre-assigned message-identifying indicium from the user of the portable electronic device, the message-identifying indicium having been assigned to an email message received by the user of the portable electronic device prior to a ~~transmission~~ receipt of the email message ~~thereto~~ by that user;
 - (d) authenticating the message-identifying indicium;
 - (e) requesting the user of the portable electronic device to record a voice message;
 - (f) recording the voice message; and
 - (g) transmitting the voice message to the user of the office-based terminal.

7. (Original) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, further comprising the step of converting the recorded voice message into a format adapted for attachment to an electronic message.

8. (Previously presented) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, further comprising the step of playing an error message and terminating the program if the user of the portable electronic device is not registered as a user of the email server.

9. (Original) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, further comprising the step of determining if the recorded message is acceptable and if not, recording the message again.

10. (Currently amended) A method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a call in an email server from the user of the portable electronic device;
- (b) determining if the user of the portable electronic device is registered as a user of the email server;
- (c) obtaining a pre-assigned message-identifying indicium from the user of the portable electronic device, the message-identifying indicium having been assigned to an email message received by the user of the portable electronic device prior to ~~a transmission~~ receipt of the email message ~~thereto~~ by that user;
- (d) authenticating the message-identifying indicium;
- (e) requesting the user of the portable electronic device to record a voice message;
- (f) recording the voice message;
- (g) converting the recorded voice message into MP-3 format; and
- (h) transmitting the voice message to the user of the office-based terminal.

11. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, further comprising identifying the user of the portable electronic device by using a Caller ID service.

12. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, further comprising, if a Caller ID service is not operating, prompting the user of the portable electronic device to enter a personal identification number ("PIN"), and authenticating the PIN to determine whether it is valid.

13. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 6, wherein the pre-assigned message-identifying indicium allows the voice message to be transmitted efficiently to the office-based terminal.

14. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 10, further comprising identifying the user of the portable electronic device by using a Caller ID service.

15. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 10, further comprising, if a Caller ID service is not operating, prompting the user of the portable electronic device to enter a PIN, and authenticating the PIN to determine whether it is valid.

16. (New) The method for enabling a user of a portable electronic device to communicate with a user of an office-based terminal by voice according to claim 10, wherein the pre-assigned message-identifying indicium allows the voice message to be transmitted efficiently to the office-based terminal.